

Inquiries of the Ministry

Has the minister concerned or his department received reports of surveys made to determine whether the level of dieldrin or other pesticides in milk supplies has reached dangerous proportions in certain areas of Ontario; and if so, have the contents of such reports been communicated to the Ontario Department of Health?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): In a continuing survey of pesticide residues in food products, the laboratories of the food and drug directorate of my department have found detectable amounts of pesticides in milk from certain areas in Ontario. The levels are not, however, considered to be dangerous. The Ontario departments of health and agriculture have been consulted with regard to the results of these sample surveys.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REPORTED THREAT TO MEMBER AND
BOMB SCARE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of a report that a member of the House of Commons has been threatened, and in view of a report in the press of a bomb scare in the building this morning, may I ask whether the minister has been made aware of these things and whether he has taken appropriate action?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have not been made aware of this. It is possible that investigations such as the one referred to by the hon. member would be carried out by the R.C.M.P., and this comes under the Solicitor General.

Mr. Winkler: As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, may I place the question before the Solicitor General.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is hard to know what is the division of responsibility over there.

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have discussed the rumour with officials of the R.C.M.P. and I am satisfied they will take the appropriate action.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

MONTREAL—INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH
OF LAWYER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the [Mr. Lewis.]

Minister of Justice whose department, I think, deals with bankruptcy matters. Is his department prepared to ask for an investigation into the death of François Payette, who apparently is the eighth victim of gangland in reference to corrupt bankruptcies?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the hon. member is making an allegation of facts. This question was asked yesterday and it was considered it was not so urgent that it should not be placed on the order paper. In view of the fact that the estimates of the Department of Justice will be under consideration I shortly suggest we should do the same thing today.

Mr. Woolliams: Then may I put the question a little differently. I think it is a question of national importance when already eight Canadians have met their death—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not a matter of the importance of the question. It is the matter of urgency in putting the question at this time.

Mr. Woolliams: Well, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, surely the protection of the lives of Canadians is of national importance. We have already had eight murders in this country, and if this is not of national importance and urgency then there never was a question of importance and urgency.

Mr. Speaker: I agree with the hon. member that it is very important, but as I told him that is not the issue at all. It is a matter of the urgency in asking the question, and I suggest to the hon. member that this very important question could be asked in a regular way in a very few minutes during consideration of the departmental estimates. It would be a more appropriate time to ask it then.

Mr. Woolliams: Then I shall pose my question this way. Is the Minister of Justice prepared to have an investigation in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might ask that question a little later on. I do not want to obstruct this type of questioning but it seems to me, when the estimates of the department will be before the committee in just a few minutes, the question might be asked then. In fact I would ask the hon. member to put the question then.

Mr. Woolliams: I will.